

WASHINGTON – Five libraries in Alabama’s sixth Congressional district have been awarded 15 classic books on the theme of “Becoming American” through the National Endowment for the Humanities’ *We the People* Bookshelf program.

“We are a nation of immigrants, and as our nation continues to grow and evolve, it is important that we hold dear our strongest common bond: that we are all Americans. It is my hope this program will give our communities a chance to come together, read and share our own stories of how we became Americans,” Congressman Spencer Bachus said.

North Shelby Library, Calera High School Library, Leeds Jane Culbreth Library, Vincent High School Library and Vestavia Hills Public Library are the chosen library recipients. As part of their award, libraries agree to hold public programming for students, such as reading competitions, essay contests, guest speakers and other community-enriching activities.

Each library will receive the following books:

Kindergarten to Grade 3

- *The Lotus Seed* by Sherry Garland
- *Watch the Stars Come Out* by Riki Levinson
- *Grandfather's Journey* by Allen Say

Grades 4 to 6

- *Immigrant Kids* by Russell Freedman
- *The People Could Fly: The Picture Book* by Virginia Hamilton
- *Rip Van Winkle* by Washington Irving
- *In the Year of the Boar and Jackie Robinson* by Bette Bao Lord

Grades 7 to 8

- *Rifles for Watie* by Harold Keith
- *The Glory Field* by Walter Dean Myers
- *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* by Betty Smith
- *Dragonwings* by Laurence Yep

Grades 9 to 12

- *Death Comes for the Archbishop* by Willa Cather
- *Barrio Boy* by Ernesto Galarza
- *Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin*, edited by Louis P. Masur

- *Giants in the Earth: A Saga of the Prairie* by Ole Edvart Rølvaag

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